

1ST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS

10:30am Worship Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *March of the Kings* arr. Gordon Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *The Birthday of a King* Tattersail's Psalmody
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #292** *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wise and gracious God, we admit that we have not lived a life conformed to Christ. You offer us the wisdom of your Word, but we neglect our study of Scripture. You are wise in your care for the world, but we think we know better. You call us to take up the cross and follow, but we want to forge our own paths. You offer your peace that is "not as the world gives," but we are not content; we want security and guarantees. You give us the gift of your commandments, but we look for the loopholes, and make our own rules. Forgive us, Lord. Call us back to the life that you intend for us. *(Silent Confession)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*GLORIA PATRI #813

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Taken from the Nicene Creed *(Unison)*

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.

ANTHEM *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* arr. Tom Fettke
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE *Come, Child of Hope* Randall Curtis

OFFERTORY *Cradle Hymn* arr. Gordon Young

*DOXOLOGY #815

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we have given to you what is yours. You entrust us with so much abundance; accept what we offer to you now as signs of our love for you and our desire to serve you. You alone are Lord of our lives. It is already so; make it so even more for us, day by day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:24-35

MESSAGE *What? Me Worry?* Rev. Larry Yerger

***HYMN #757** *Soon and Very Soon*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *Sing We Now of Christmas* Traditional French Carol
Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #502319310

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service

9:00am New Beginnings Service

GATHERING SONG *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

***PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *Joyful Medley*
Angels We have Heard on High
Infant Holy

PRAYER

OFFERING *The Birthday of a King*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Came Down at Christmas*
New Beginnings Praise Team

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:24-35

MESSAGE *What? Me Worry?* Rev. Larry Yerger

***CLOSING SONG** *Light is Shining All Around*

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families during the war against terrorism.
- Pray for our church and new denomination as we seek ways to reach the lost and needy in our community and world.
- The family of CCSO Sgt. Michael Wilson who was killed in the line of duty August 5, 2013 and the law enforcement officers who daily put their lives on the line for us.

Those Who Grieve

- Margie and Jerry Smith on the loss of Margie's brother, Robert Thiem on December 16.
- Ed and Phyllis Richardson on the loss of Ed's brother, Lyle Richardson on December 21.

Those with Special Needs

Betty Stroth	Fred & Rachel Pfaender
Helmut Ehrhardt	Paul & Arlene Gebel
Joyce Kiskaddon	Rev. Larry Yerger
Adelaide Hauck	Ella Sifferd
Jerry & Nancy Julius	Rob & Jennifer Taylor & family
Kay Callahan	Doris Henning
Elizabeth Dunn	Marguerite O'Brien

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Sarah Ferry, <i>Rosie's Adult Family Care</i>	Dorothy Blue, <i>Harbor Terrace</i>
Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>	Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Esther Wheeler, <i>Life Care Center</i>	

**Please keep the office updated concerning your requests. Requests will be listed for 4 weeks and then removed unless updated.*

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.

FLOWERS – The flowers given this morning are by Sharon Russell & Richard Beck in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary.

CORRECTION – The flowers given last week were supposed to be given by Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale in honor of Larrie's 75th birthday.

PRAYER SERVICE – A weekly prayer service is being offered on **Sunday evenings at 6:00pm** in the Conference Room. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED Thursday, New Year's Day.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2015, we urge you do so as soon as possible. Extras can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2014 gets credited for 2014, you must have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2014. Any donations received after that date will be applied to your 2015 giving.

2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE – The 2015 offering envelope boxes are now available on the table in the foyer. Please pick yours up and if there isn't one with your name on it, please let the office know so we can get you your box. If you haven't used envelopes in the past, but would like to, let the office know and we'll get a box of offering envelopes for you to use.

BIBLE STUDY AT FPCPG – Participate in a Bible study with Rev. Larry Yerger every **Wednesday at 10am** involving in-depth discussions on a variety of Biblical topics and their relationship to current affairs. Our current study is the Book of Revelation. New attendees are always welcome to join us. **CLASS WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 7TH.**

HELP NEEDED!! FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND AT 10AM – Your help is needed to take down all the decorations that have made our church so beautiful this holiday season on Friday, Jan. 2nd at 10am. "Many hands make light work", so please sign-up at the table in the foyer.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will continue on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the home of Sharon & Robert Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande, Punta Gorda Isles and starts at 10am. Our new study will be "The Divine Conspiracy" by Dallas Willard and John Ortberg and is about 2 hours, with time for fellowship and refreshments. All women of the church are welcome. Our next study is **Tuesday, January 6th.**

HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE IN ORLANDO – The trip to the Holy Land Experience has been set up for **Wednesday, February 25, 2015.** The cost is \$75, which includes bus and admission; it's \$50 to rent a scooter. A sign-up sheet is available in the church entrance. If you have already signed up showing interest in going, you need to sign up again. (It was suggested that you bring a jacket because the theater is cool). DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15.

HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL – The migrants are in need of GENTLY USED BLANKETS, SHEETS AND TOWELS. They also need LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS AND REGULAR SHIRTS. Please put donations in the wicker basket in the church entrance. If you would like to volunteer on a Friday afternoon to help with serving the meal at Misión Peniel, talk to Dianne Sizemore. The next trip will be **Friday, January 23rd**, carpooling from the church at 12:15pm.

THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM requests your comments & suggestions for our activities. An "idea box" is on the sign-up table in the church entrance.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT – We are financially helping to support Rob and Jennifer Taylor and their four children in their 2-year commitment to the mission field in Zambia, Africa. Please pray for them. If you would like to donate to this mission, please make your check out to the church and in the memo line enter “Taylor Family.” Thanks- your Mission Team.

PLEASE BRING IN FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY - Let us see the blue food bin overflowing each week. **Some suggestions: peanut butter, jelly, cereal and soup.**

AMI KIDS CROSSROADS – Crossroads is in need of operating funds. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and on the memo line write “Crossroads.”

OUR DAILY BREAD – Pick up a copy of this booklet of daily devotionals on the back table in the Sanctuary.

MUSIC MINISTRY - Special Music is available in an mp3 format by emailing Randy at rpc1220@me.com. We also have a private Facebook page where music and occasional videos are uploaded for your enjoyment. To be invited to this page please email Randy at rpc1220@me.com. Live streaming of both services are available on the Church's website homepage by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE: www.fpcpunta.org. Your comments, thoughts and ideas are also welcome.

FLOWERS – May be funded for the **cost of \$37**. To make a donation, sign up at the sign-up table in the church lobby. If the flowers are in honor and/or in memory of something or someone, please put that on the sign-up sheet.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK
December 28th thru January 4th

Sunday, December 28	
6:00pm	Prayer Service
Thursday, January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED
Friday, January 2	
10:00am	Take Christmas Decorations Down
Sunday, January 4	
9:00am	New Beginnings Worship
10:30am	Traditional Worship
6:00pm	Prayer Service

SERMON NOTES

Matthew 6:24-34

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians

OUR VISION AND PURPOSE

LOVING

... God and others through worship and fellowship

GROWING

... in our understanding Jesus and God's purposes for us through Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others

GOING

... into God's world with His message of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy

ALL IN JESUS' NAME!

ECO'S VISION

... to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ

December 28, 2014

9:00am & 10:30am

WELCOME

This morning as we join in worship, our hope is that each of us will find renewed life, health and strength in God. We are glad to welcome each visitor and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God's call with this congregation. If you are living in this area, either permanently or for the season, we invite you to join hands in ministry with us by becoming a covenant partner of our congregation.

PASTOR
ASSISTANT PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
PARISH NURSE
LITURGIST
USHERS

Rev. Steve Mock
Rev. Larry Yerger
Randall Curtis
Elizabeth Dunn
Debbie Carney
Georgia Cherny
Pat Patterson, Phyllis Richardson,
Linda Potthoff, Kay Callahan